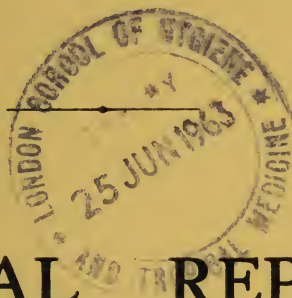


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Bishop's Stortford Urban District  
Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1956



As



Bishop's Stortford Urban District  
Council

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

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Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1956

## Members of the Council, 1956-1957

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### *Chairman:*

Councillor G. HURST-GREAVES, J.P.

### *Vice-Chairman:*

Councillor E. BARRETT

Councillor J. E. BARRY

- „ Mrs. I. N. BIRD
- „ R. P. GAMMIE, M.D.  
(Chairman of the Public Health Committee)
- „ J. E. HAMPTON
- „ P. G. KING
- „ D. G. LACY
- „ R. MERRILL
- „ L. SCUTTS
- „ T. SHARROCK
- „ Mrs. E. M. SMITH, J.P.
- „ R. W. STANFORD, M.A., A.INST.P.
- „ R. M. STEWART
- „ R. J. VENN, T.D.
- „ P. L. T. WALKER, B.A.
- „ H. J. WALTERS  
(Chairman of Housing and Open Spaces  
Committee)
- „ T. G. WOOLLEY  
(Chairman of Finance and General Purposes  
Committee)

**Public Health Department**

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EIRWEN M. JONES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health

---

A. L. GOOD, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., A.M.I.P.H.E., A.I.Hsg.,  
Chief Public Health Inspector  
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

---

F. W. P. HARMSWORTH, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,  
Additional Public Health Inspector  
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods  
(until 27.10.56)

---

Miss J. RODGERS  
Clerk/Shorthand Typist

---

A. TURNER  
Rodent Operator

# Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council

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Public Health Department,  
The Council House,  
Bishop's Stortford,

June, 1957

*To the Chairman and Members,  
Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to submit the following Report for the year 1956, on the health of the Bishop's Stortford Urban District which has been drawn up on the lines indicated in the Circular issued by the Ministry of Health.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population of 14,550 shows an increase of 750 over last year.

The birth rate is again higher than the previous year and the death rate is again lower. The infantile mortality rate shows a welcome marked decline, there being only three deaths of infants under one year of age. Moreover, the infantile death rate represents the fourth lowest recorded figure for sixty years.

This year the vital statistics have been depicted by graphical representation and those for Bishop's Stortford have been compared with England and Wales as a whole for the 20-year period 1937 to 1956. The steady decline in infantile mortality rates for England and Wales (apart from an accountable rise in 1940 and 1941) is very striking indeed.

Three cases of paralytic poliomyelitis were notified during the year.

Immediately following one of the above cases, notified towards the end of October, an outbreak of suspected poliomyelitis occurred, twenty-two cases being reported. Laboratory investigations subsequently carried out however, found that the disease was not poliomyelitis and, for want of a better term, the illness was regarded as acute meningitis of undetermined origin.

It was unfortunate that this mysterious illness should have occurred at a time when the Department was without the services

of an additional Public Health Inspector, Mr. Harmsworth having left to take up a post with the Dunstable Borough Council. Nevertheless, adequate control measures were maintained throughout the period of the outbreak.

Food poisoning was not much in evidence during 1956, only one case being notified.

1956 must surely rank as a year of very good health for Bishop's Stortford and we feel that this is due in no small way to the provision of a pure and abundant water supply, a clean and safe milk supply and clean, fresh air.

Our thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support and guidance during the year.

We are,

Your obedient Servants,

EIRWEN M. JONES

*Medical Officer of Health*

A. L. GOOD,

*Chief Public Health Inspector*

## **SECTION A**

### **Statistics**

#### **(1) General**

Area (acres) ... ..	3,826
Population ... ..	14,550
Rateable Value ... ..	£209,681
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	£836
Number of Inhabited Houses...	4,658
Density of Persons per Acre ... ..	3.8
„ Houses „ ... ..	1.2
Average Number of Occupants per House ... ..	3.12

#### **(2) Vital**

	Birth Rate per 1,000 population	Death Rate per 1,000 population	Infantile Mortality Rate Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births
England and Wales ...	15.7	11.7	23.8
Bishop's Stortford ...	16.70	10.45	12.35

#### **BIRTHS**

Number of Legitimate Births...	...	231
„ Illegitimate Births	...	12
Percentage of Illegitimate Births	...	5.19
Total Number of Births Males	133	
Females	110	243

#### **DEATHS**

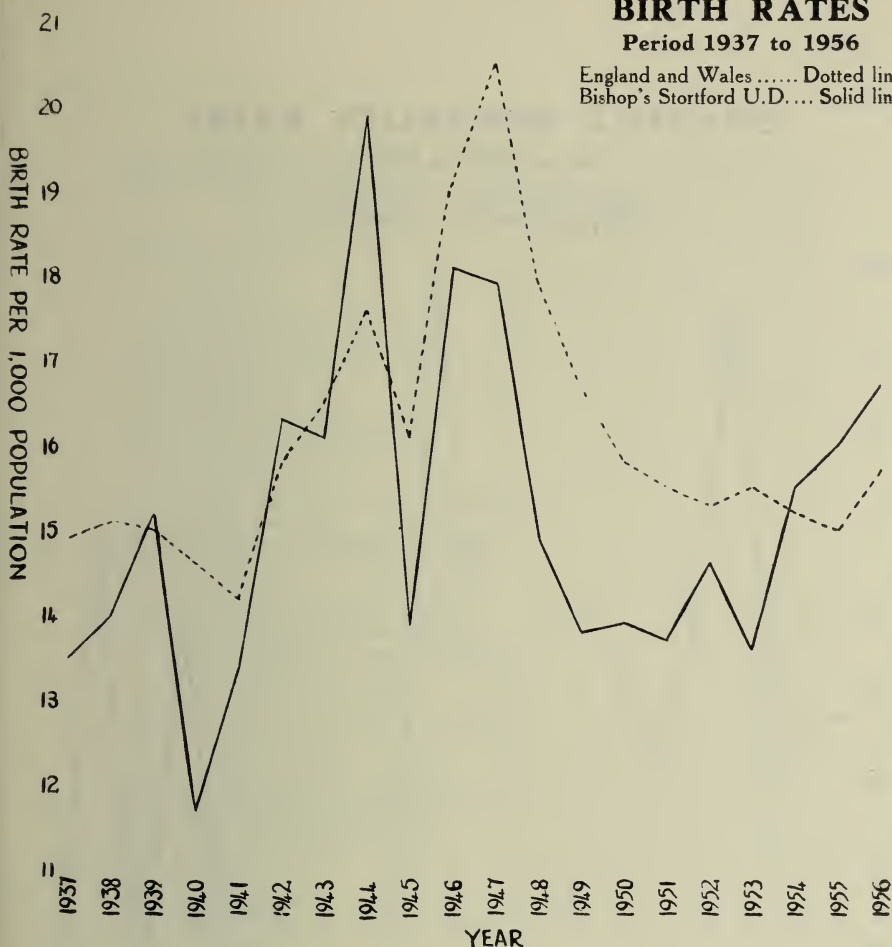
Total Number of Deaths	...	...	152
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## BIRTH RATES

Period 1937 to 1956

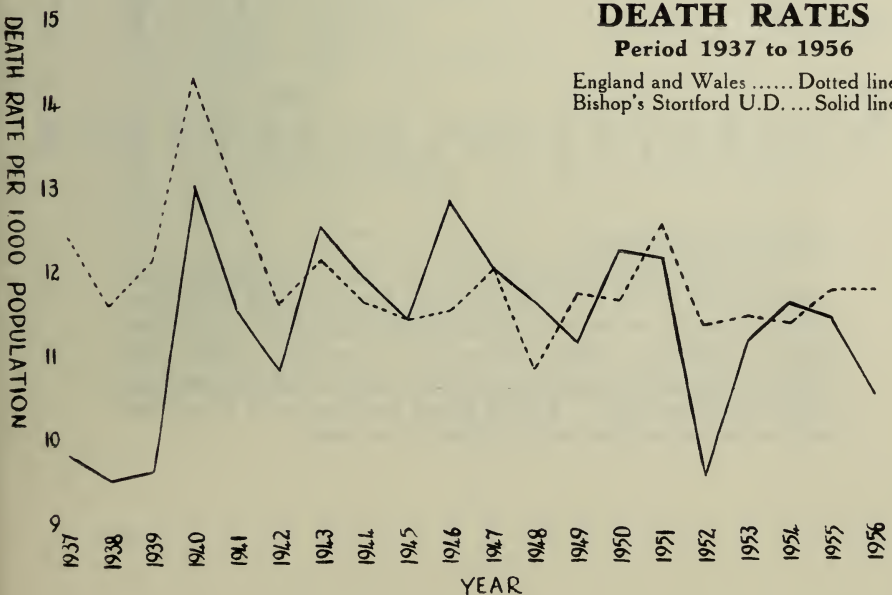
England and Wales ..... Dotted line  
Bishop's Stortford U.D. .... Solid line



## DEATH RATES

Period 1937 to 1956

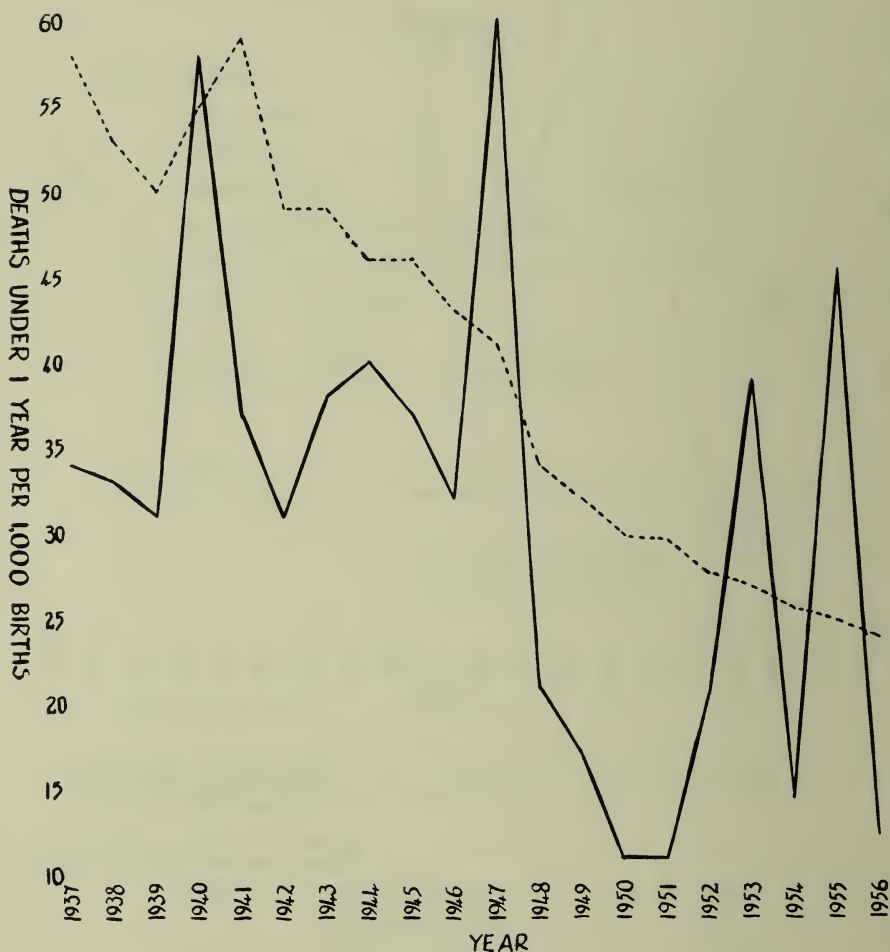
England and Wales ..... Dotted line  
Bishop's Stortford U.D. .... Solid line



# INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES

Period 1937 to 1956

England and Wales ..... Dotted line  
Bishop's Stortford U.D. ... Solid line



## INFANTILE MORTALITY

The infantile mortality rate for 1956 showed a welcome fall. Three infants failed to survive the first four weeks of life. One full-term infant survived fifteen minutes but failed to establish regular respiration, whilst another had a congenital defect and did not respond to surgical measures which were necessary to alleviate the condition. A third infant was five weeks premature and succumbed within the first twenty-four hours.

### (3) Mortality Table

Causes of Death				Males	Females	Total
	All Causes	...	...	68	84	152
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	1	—	1
2	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	—	—	—
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	—	2	2
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	—	1	1
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	5	—	5
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	—	1	1
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	—	2	2
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	10	9	19
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	1	—	1
16	Diabetes	...	...	—	—	—
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	8	17	25
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	13	10	23
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	2	2	4
20	Other Heart Disease	...	...	4	8	12
21	Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	2	6	8
22	Influenza	...	...	1	—	1
23	Pneumonia	...	...	2	3	5
24	Bronchitis	...	...	3	5	8
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	—	2	2
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	2	1	3
27	Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	...	...	—	—	—
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	—	1	1
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	2	—	2
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	...	...	—	—	—
31	Congenital Malformations	...	...	1	—	1
32	Other defined and ill defined Diseases	...	...	6	10	16
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	1	—	1
34	All other Accidents	...	...	3	4	7
35	Suicide	...	...	1	—	1
36	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	—	—	—
	Still Births	...	...	2	—	2
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (ALL under 4 weeks of age)	...	...	2	1	3

## SECTION B

### Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

#### (1) Notifiable Diseases

*Notifications of the following infectious diseases were received during the year:*

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 60	Over Sixty
Dysentery ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Encephalitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Infectious Hepatitis ...	13	—	—	—	1	5	2	4	1
Measles ...	20	—	4	7	8	—	—	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	5	—	2	—	—	1	—	2	—
Poliomyelitis ...	3	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—
Scarlet Fever ...	4	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
Whooping Cough...	54	4	7	18	23	1	—	1	—

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Dysentery ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infectious Hepatitis ...	1	3	1	2	2	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	3	—	2	—	9
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Tuberculosis ...	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	12	16	3	11	8

The past year was once again free of serious infectious disease. During the year thirteen notifications of infectious hepatitis were received and, of the cases which occurred from February to April, four were from one class in a local school. These were undoubtedly contacts of a boy who lived outside the district and who had developed jaundice late in January. Special measures were taken to isolate the particular class as far as this was practicable within the school routine. General Practitioners were alerted and it was gratifying that the number of cases remained small and were limited to the one class only. The remaining notifications were of isolated cases.

Whooping cough was prevalent during the latter half of the year and the number of notifications received showed an increase of twenty-nine over 1955. Replies to enquiries concerning immunisation and the severity of the illness were obtained from fifty-one parents. Three parents failed to supply the information requested. The questionnaire revealed that forty children had never been immunised. Six of the eleven children that had received inoculations were immunised three or more years prior to the onset of the illness and consequently they were probably no longer effectively protected. Severe symptoms were present in one of the children from the group regarded as effectively inoculated compared with seven children from the group which had not been inoculated.

## (2) Tuberculosis

	MALES		FEMALES	
	Pul.	Non.-P.	Pul.	Non.-P.
Cases on Register at 31.12.55 ...	31	4	28	9
Number of cases notified during year ...	—	2	3	—
Number of cases restored during year ...	—	—	—	—
Inward transfer ...	3	—	5	—
Cases removed ...	—	1	1	—
Cases on Register at 31.12.56 ...	34	5	35	9

## (3) Food Poisoning

A single case of salmonella typhi-murium was notified during the year in a residential establishment but it is probable that infection occurred outside the district.

## (4) Poliomyelitis

Three children, all under five years of age, developed para-



lytic poliomyelitis during the year. A single notification in August could not be associated with any other known source of illness. A notification received in October heralded the onset of a minor epidemic of suspected poliomyelitis. Fortunately, however, it was proved to be not poliomyelitis and, apart from a single notification in December no further cases arose.

### **(5) Suspected Poliomyelitis Epidemic**

Following a notification of a case of poliomyelitis which was received in October twenty-two notifications of suspected poliomyelitis were received in rapid succession over a period of six weeks. Seven of these cases were in point of fact notified as encephalitis. The symptoms in the early stages closely resembled those of anterior poliomyelitis and admission to hospital was considered advisable. The outbreak was limited to one main area of the town and the usual control measures applicable in cases of poliomyelitis were carried out. There is little doubt that these precautions helped to limit the outbreak. The final diagnosis was acute meningitis of undetermined origin.

Improved virus culture facilities in all laboratories will, in the future, enable viruses to be identified which up to date have only been cultured in very special media in specially equipped laboratories.

Further cases developed in another neighbourhood of the town but in the main were sporadic, and as the clinical entity came to be recognised and notification was not a statutory obligation, the full extent of the illness was not known. During the outbreak a close liaison existed between the practitioners and the Health Department and this helpful co-operation contributed in no small degree to the success of the epidemiological control.

### **(6) Prophylactic Measures**

#### **DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS IMMUNISATIONS**

This work remained the responsibility of the County Council. The combined triple vaccine was available throughout the year at the Welfare Centre and practitioners had commenced to use the triple antigen by the end of the year.

#### **POLIOMYELITIS IMMUNISATION**

The poliomyelitis vaccine was available for selected groups from the registered applications made to the County Health Authority. The selected groups were children born during March in the years 1951 to 1954 and children born during November in the years 1947 to 1954. Children born during

August in the years 1947 to 1954 were placed in the selected reserve group. Approximately 100 children were immunised during the year but some of these were, for administrative convenience, drawn from outside the town.

#### **(7) Refuse**

Refuse is disposed of by tipping on land adjoining the Castle grounds. Rodent and insect pest control treatments are provided and maintained by the Public Health Department in collaboration with the Surveyor's Department.

#### **(8) Drainage and Sewerage**

The complex and difficult problems of sewerage and sewage disposal have received very careful and detailed consideration by the Council. Important decisions, far reaching in their financial implications, have and are about to be made in order to achieve a completely satisfactory solution at the smallest possible cost.

The relaying of the sewer in South Street has been dealt with as a matter of some urgency and it is hoped that a start on this complicated engineering task will be made during 1957.

Sewage effluent samples taken during the year were reported to be satisfactory and in accordance with the required standard.

The whole of the Urban District is sewered with the exception of Thorley village and a few isolated properties on the outskirts of the town, where cesspools or septic tank installations are used.

#### **(9) Water Supply**

The Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council's own water undertaking is responsible for the greater part of the water supplied within the district.

The properties listed below receive a supply of water from other sources as indicated.

Eleven samples of water were submitted to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory for examination. Ten samples were reported upon as satisfactory and one sample was found to be unsatisfactory and unfit for drinking purposes.

The unsatisfactory sample was taken from a house in Thorley village, the source of supply being a shallow well. The occupier was immediately advised to boil all water used for domestic purposes and the owner was requested to provide a supply direct from the Council's main. The owner carried out the work promptly.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Source of Supply</i>	<i>Results of Samples</i>
The Lodge, Thorley ...	Deep Well	Satisfactory
Barnard Cottage, Thorley ... ..	Deep Well	Satisfactory
Plantains Wood Cottages, Hadham Road ... ..	Deep Well	Satisfactory
Wickham Hall Farm Cottages ... ..	Deep Well	Satisfactory
Holtom's Farm and Cottages ... ..	Shallow Well	Satisfactory
"Uplands", "Eastleigh", "Hurst Cottage", "Manor Farm", "Fairacre"	Hurst Manor Waterworks, Ltd., Dunmow Road Deep Well	Satisfactory

#### **(10) Swimming Pool**

Seventeen samples of water were taken from the swimming pool during the summer and submitted for bacteriological examination. One of the early samples was reported upon as unsatisfactory and the attention of the Surveyor was called to this matter. The remaining sixteen samples were found to be satisfactory.

#### **(11) Paddling Pool**

A number of the younger children were observed to be bathing in the paddling pool during the hot weather and although the pool is cleaned out regularly and the water is chlorinated, it was felt advisable to take samples for bacteriological examination. Four samples were submitted and two of these were reported upon as unsatisfactory. The Surveyor was requested by the Council to arrange for a suitable warning notice to be posted, drawing attention to the unsuitability of the paddling pool for bathing.



## **SECTION C**

### **Health Services available in Bishop's Stortford**

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#### **NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT**

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##### **Part II. Hospital and Specialist Services**

###### *Bishop's Stortford and District Hospital*

Staff: General Practitioners, Consultants and a Resident Medical Officer.

Facilities are available for Medicine, Surgery, Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases, Obstetrics and Gynæcology, Orthopædics, Paediatrics, Physical Medicine and Radiology.

###### *Herts and Essex General Hospital*

Staff: Consultants, Registrars, and Resident House Officers, Specialist Departments in the following: Medicine, Surgery, Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases, Obstetrics and Gynæcology, Orthopædics, Paediatrics, Physical Medicine, Psychiatry, Radiotherapy, Ophthalmology, Dentistry, Venereal Diseases and Tuberculosis.

A Pathological Laboratory provides an excellent service at this Hospital.

##### **Part III. Services of the Local Health Authority**

###### *Hertfordshire*

1. Home Nursing.
2. School Health Services consisting of:
  - School Medical Inspections.
  - Clinics.
    - Speech Clinic.—Wednesday all day, *Portland Road Clinic*.
    - Orthodontic Clinic.—Two half days monthly. By appointment.
    - Eye Clinic.—Monday, 2—3 p.m. By appointment. *Herts and Essex General Hospital*. (In conjunction with Hospital Service).
    - Minor Ailments.—Every morning, 9—10 a.m. *Portland Road Clinic*.
    - General Clinic.—Second and fourth Friday each month. 9.30 to 12 noon. *Portland Road Clinic*.
    - Child Guidance Clinic.—Every Thursday, 10—12 noon, 2—4 p.m. *Portland Road Clinic*.

3. Maternity and Child Welfare Services:

Health Visiting.

Clinics.

Infant Welfare Clinic.—2nd, 4th Thursday, 10 a.m.—12 noon and every Thursday, 2 p.m. *Water Lane Institute*. (Facilities are provided for Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination).

Ante-Natal Clinic.—1st Friday each month. *Portland Road Clinic*.

4. Home Help Organisation.

Organiser in Attendance. Tuesday, 10—11 a.m., Thursday, 10—11 a.m., Friday, 2—3 p.m. *Portland Road Clinic*.

**Part IV. General Medical Services**

1. General Practitioners:

Dr. R. P. Gammie	}	20, North Street, Bishop's Stortford
Dr. G. G. Holmes		
Dr. G. A. Sharp		
Dr. I. D. Paterson		
Dr. P. H. Hewitt		
Dr. A. R. Lyall	}	40, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford
Dr. R. A. R. Wallace		
Dr. J. T. Wallace		
Dr. E. Leigh, 11, Church Street, Bishop's Stortford		

2. Dental Practitioners:

Mr. J. Dickson	}	The Folly, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford
Mr. C. Bullpitt		
Mr. O. N. Catchpole, 6a, North Street, Bishop's Stortford	}	9, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford
Mr. H. Davies, 14, Bridge Street, Bishop's Stortford		
Mr. G. E. Dodd		
Mr. W. E. Dodd		
Miss Joan Dodd		

Adequate provisions are made in the town for pharmaceutical services.

**Voluntary Organisations**

Family Planning Association:

Clinics.—1st, 3rd and 4th Thursday, each month at 6.30 p.m. 2nd Thursday each month, 10.30 a.m. to 11.0 a.m. *Herts and Essex General Hospital*.

## **SECTION D**

### **Public Health Administration**

#### **(1) Public Health Inspector's Education Board**

During the year the Public Health Inspector's Education Board was formed, the objects of which may be summarised as follows:

1. To examine for and issue a Diploma in Public Health Inspection as the basic qualification to be recognised by the Minister;
2. To examine for other certificates it may consider necessary for public health inspectors;
3. To approve courses of instruction for all of its examinations;
4. To approve local authorities for the purposes of practical training and
5. To keep under review all questions relating to the recruitment, training and examination of public health inspectors.

Local Authorities are reminded that the system of paid pupilage for public health inspectors should be extended with the prospect of its ultimately becoming the normal avenue of entry, except for ex-Service candidates, and that practical training for student inspectors should be obtained in the service of local authorities approved for the purpose by the new Education Board. The Minister supports the view of the Working Party that the best training is obtained by those students who are engaged by a local authority specifically as pupils or student public health inspectors and has no doubt that local authorities will bear the recommendation in mind, and consider the advantages of adopting a system of paid pupilage or, where appropriate, of extending existing arrangements.

#### **(2) Office Reorganisation**

A complete re-organisation of the office records was undertaken during the year in an effort to streamline this important aspect of the work of the department. The basis of the re-organisation was to simplify the filing and recording methods and, in so doing, to enable statistical information required for the various weekly, monthly, quarterly and yearly reports to be extracted accurately and speedily. This work has proved to be immensely worthwhile and has fully justified the effort involved.

Card records of all factories, shops and food premises have now been filed together in street order, in the Kalamazoo register and a simplified coding has been brought into use. This coding enables a quick and ready check to be made in respect of the various types of premises. Details of these special premises are tabulated below.

#### *Factories*

(a) With Mechanical Power	...	...	...	92
(b) Without Mechanical Power	...	...	...	5

#### *Food Premises*

Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Canteens							
(a) School	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
(b) Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(c) Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Clubs							
(a) Non-licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
(b) Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Dairymen and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fishmongers							
(a) Wet and Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Wet Fish...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(c) Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Grocers							
(a) Non-licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
(b) Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Restaurants							
(a) Non-licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
(b) Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Sugar Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

#### *Non Food Shops*

Boots and Shoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Chemists	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Clothiers	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Electrical Goods	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Furnishers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Hairdressers	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Ironmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Jewellers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Leather Goods	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Newsagents	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Radio and Television	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Stationers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Toys	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wall Paper	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
<i>Workplaces</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	25

### (3) Inspection of the District

Total number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	2,521
Dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	972
Revisits to dwelling houses including works in progress	...	...	...	...	...	441
Premises inspected on complaint for nuisance other than housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	40
Drainage inspections	...	...	...	...	...	30
Overcrowded Premises	...	...	...	...	...	2
Special and Miscellaneous visits...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Interviews with Owners, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	38
<i>Re</i> Infectious Disease and Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	75
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	339
Dairies, Cowsheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	28
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	3
Butcher's Shops	...	...	...	...	...	31
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	18
Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	60
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	19
Other Food Shops, Stores, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	91
Market Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	130
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	48
Workplaces, Offices and Shops	...	...	...	...	...	23
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	18
<i>Re</i> Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	...	22
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	5
<i>Re</i> Applications for Housing Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rat Infested Premises	...	...	...	...	...	11
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	12
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	15
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	1

**(4) Complaints and Matters Referred**

Complaints received ... ..	440
Complaints investigated ... ..	382
Complaints referred to other Departments and Authorities ... ..	58
Other matters referred to other Departments and Authorities ... ..	21

**(5) Testing of Drains and Sanitary Fittings**

Drains tested with water... ..	1
Drains tested with other means ... ..	6

**(6) Notices Served and the Results of the Service of such Notices**

*(a) Preliminary Notices*

	No. Served	No. com- plied with
(i) Dwelling Houses for Housing Defects ...	85	60
(ii) Special Premises (shops, factories, etc.)...	41	5

*(b) Statutory Notices*

See Housing Section for Details.

*N.B.—The number of notices complied with may include notices outstanding from the previous year.*



## (7) Summary of Improvements Effectuated

	At Dwelling Houses	At Food Premises	At Shops, Offices, Hotels, etc.
Damp walls and other damp conditions remedied ... ..	36	3	—
Roofs repaired ... ..	40	—	—
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	9	—	—
Gutters, rainwater pipes, etc., repaired or renewed ... ..	47	—	—
External Walls repaired or rebuilt	23	—	—
Fireplaces, hearths, etc., repaired or renewed ... ..	10	—	—
Stairs repaired or renewed ...	17	—	—
Floors repaired or renewed ...	40	2	—
Windows and doors repaired or renewed ... ..	67	—	—
Lighting and ventilation defects remedied ... ..	11	1	—
Walls and ceilings repaired or renewed ... ..	47	1	1
Rooms cleansed and decorated ...	6	2	—
Miscellaneous defects remedied ...	5	2	—
Yards paved or repaired ...	8	—	—
Drains cleansed or repaired ...	31	—	—
Drains provided or relaid ...	5	—	—
Inspection chambers provided or repaired ... ..	—	—	—
Gulleys provided or renewed ...	8	—	—
Urinals provided or improved ...	—	—	—
Water closets reconstructed or new provided ... ..	1	—	—
Water closets repaired ... ..	33	3	—
Sinks, baths, etc., and waste pipes fitted... ..	17	1	—
Food stores provided ... ..	5	—	—
Accumulations removed ... ..	2	—	—
Hot water supply provided ...	1	2	—

## (8) Disinfection and Disinfestation

Disinfection was carried out at twenty three premises during the year following cases of infectious disease. Sixty seven properties were disinfested and in this connection twenty six wasps nests were destroyed.

## (9) Inspection and Supervision of Food

### (a) THE FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

These regulations, which were made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, came into operation on the 1st January, 1956 and are more far-reaching than any previous food hygiene legislation.

Talks were given during the year to the Bishop's Stortford and District Chamber of Trade, the Rotary Club and to local food traders, in order to publicise the regulations and to indicate broadly the requirements laid down. A high standard of hygiene, both as regards food handling and structural improvement, was hoped for and, it is to the credit of the food traders generally that there has been a most encouraging response. Much, however, remains to be done but with the good will of all concerned and the co-operation of the general public steady progress is assured.

### (b) MILK SUPPLIES

There are four producers of milk in the Urban district and four retailers of milk. Two of the producers are licensed for tuberculin tested milk and two are producing non-designated milk. The Urban District of Bishop's Stortford is now included in a "Specified Area" in which only heat treated or raw tuberculin tested milk may be sold. The raw ungraded milk is collected by the Bishop's Stortford Dairy Farmers Ltd., for pasteurisation at the Hallingbury Road Dairy.

64 samples of bottled milk were submitted for bacteriological examination at the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory. All the samples were found to be satisfactory.

Designation	No. of Samples Taken	No. Satis- factory	No. Unsatis- factory
Pasteurised ... ..	18	18	—
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised ... ..	30	30	—
Sterilised ... ..	16	16	—



39 samples of raw tuberculin tested milk and 19 samples of raw ungraded milk were taken from churns on arrival at the Hallingbury Road Dairy and submitted for bacteriological examination. Three of the tuberculin tested samples and five of the ungraded samples were unsatisfactory and follow-up samples were taken.

#### (c) MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ICE-CREAM

Fifty two premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream and this represents an increase of two over last year.

##### *Bacteriological Examination*

Six samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and all were reported upon as satisfactory.

#### (d) MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION

Eleven premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the preparation and manufacture of preserved food as follows:

Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sausages and Brawn	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sausages and Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meat Pickling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Canned Foods	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cooked Hams	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

2,482 animals were killed at the private slaughterhouse, 4, South Street, and the carcase of a pig slaughtered outside the district was inspected on arrival at a local butcher's shop. All animals slaughtered were inspected and details of these and the meat condemned are given in the appropriate tables. It will be noticed that four cases of cysticercus bovis were detected during the year, but in each case the infection was localised, the infected parts condemned and the carcasses placed in cold storage for a period of twenty one days at a temperature not exceeding 16 deg. F.

#### (e) DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

Meat condemned at the slaughterhouse is collected regularly by a reputable firm for processing and manufacture into animal foods, fertilisers, glue and soap. All other condemned food is collected and disposed of, under supervision, on the Council's controlled tip.

# CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed ...	308	1	81	807	1285
Number Inspected ...	308	1	81	807	1286*
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	2	7
Weight in lb. condemned	—	—	—	94	774
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	77	1	5	72	201
Weight in lb. condemned	864	20	101	94	459½
Percentage affected ...	25.0	100	6.17	9.16	15.63
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Weight in lb. condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	16	—	—	—	25
Weight in lb. condemned	651	—	—	—	300
Percentage affected ...	5.19	—	—	—	1.94
Cysticercosis only:					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	—	—	—	—
Weight in lb. condemned	132	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	4	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally Condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Weight in lb. condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected ...	1.29	—	—	—	—

\*Includes one pig slaughtered outside the Urban District

### DETAILS OF MEAT CONDEMNED

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Heads & Tongues	272 lbs.	—	—	—	349 lbs.
Hearts ...	40 lbs.	—	—	—	23½ lbs.
Livers ...	751 lbs.	—	15 lbs.	9 lbs.	159 lbs.
Lungs ...	204 lbs.	—	9 lbs.	85 lbs.	211 lbs.
Kidneys ...	41 lbs.	—	—	—	15 lbs.
Mesenterys	59 lbs.	—	—	—	23 lbs.
Spleens ...	2 lbs.	—	1 lb.	—	9 lbs.
Udder ...	—	20 lbs.	—	—	—
Carcase Meat	278 lbs.	—	76 lbs.	94 lbs.	744 lbs.
Totals ...	1,647 lbs.	20 lbs.	101 lbs.	188 lbs.	1,533½ lbs.

### DETAILS OF FOODSTUFFS FOUND UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Description	Weight	Number of Tins	Description	Weight	Number of Tins
Apricot Pulp ...	5 kilos	1	Puff Pastry ...	6 lbs.	6 pkts.
Bacon ...	20 lbs.	—	Rice ...	148 lbs.	37 pkts.
Beef ...	52 lbs.	—	Suet ...	4 ozs.	1 pkt.
Cake ...	96 lbs.	8 cartons	Sultanas ...	60 lbs.	—
Cheese ...	27 lbs.	—	Tinned Fish ...	10 lbs.	15
Cod ...	85 lbs.	—	Tinned		
Fish ...	77 lbs.	—	Chinese Egg	16 lbs.	1
Honey ...	1 lb.	2 jars	Tinned Fruits	817 lbs.	573
Jam ...	5 lbs.	5 jars	Tinned Fruits	440 kilos	88
Meat ...	16 lbs.	—	Tinned Ham ...	47 lbs.	4
Mincem't Loaf	2 lbs.	3	Tinned Meats	411 lbs.	157
Peaches ...	300 kilos	60	Tinned Milks		
Pork Pies ...	15 lbs.	48 pies	and Cream ...	98 lbs.	136
Prawns ...	8 lbs.	—	Tinned Soups	14 lbs.	14
Prunes ...	30 lbs.	—	Tinned Veg. ...	364 lbs.	229

### TOTAL AMOUNT OF CONDEMNED MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Meat ...	...	...	3489½ lb. or 1.557 tons
Other Foods ...	...	...	4064 lb. or 1.814 tons
Total ...	...	...	7533 lb. or 3.362 tons

## **(10) Rodent Control**

### **(i) Disinfestation of Sewers**

70 manholes on the foul sewerage system were test-baited during the year and the baits were eaten in six of the manholes. This indicates that there is no serious infestation of the sewers but nevertheless poison baits were subsequently laid in 29 manholes in those regions where rats were in evidence. 9 of the poison baits were consumed.

### **(ii) Disinfestation of Surface Properties**

Number of Dwelling Houses treated	...	259
„ Business Premises treated	...	219
„ Council Premises treated	...	69
„ Pre-baits laid	... ..	2,619
„ „ partly taken	...	979
„ „ completely taken	...	1,152
„ Poison Baits laid...	...	2,174
„ „ „ partly taken	...	1,285
„ „ „ completely taken	...	134
„ Bodies recovered (a) rats	...	248
„ „ „ (b) mice	...	166
Total number of visits made by the operator		1,975

## **(11) The Storage of Petroleum Spirit**

Sixty two premises were licensed for the storage of Petroleum Spirit, a decrease of one over the previous year. Fees received by the Council in respect of these licenses amounted to £41 15s. 0d.

## **(12) The Provision of Dustbins**

The scheme to provide dustbins, operated by the Council, continued to function satisfactorily. 803 dustbins were issued during the year compared with 614 during 1955. The scheme was initiated in July, 1954 and by the end of 1956 a total of 1571 dustbins had been provided.

One dustbin is issued to dwelling houses and to business premises where the Public Health Inspector deems this to be necessary. Complaints about dustbins are all investigated before requisitions are issued.

## **(13) Factories Act, 1937**

48 visits were made to the factories on the register and it was found necessary in six instances to serve informal notices where contraventions existed.

39 outworkers were employed during the year by the various factories in the district.

3 certificates of adequate means of escape in case of fire were issued by the local authority, two of these being amended certificates.

*Part I of the Act*

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	5	5	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	92	26	6	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	17	17	—	—
TOTAL ...	114	48	6	—

2. CASES in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (s 1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (s 2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (s 3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (s 4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (s 6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (s 7) :					
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	9	9	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	9	9	—	—	—



## (12) Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year :

(a) By the Local Authority ... .. —

(b) By Private Enterprise ... .. 259

Number of houses made available by conversion or adaptation of existing buildings ... .. —

### HOUSING ACT, 1936. SECTION 9

*Houses capable of repair at reasonable expense:*

A statutory notice was served in respect of No. 90, Dunmow Road.

### HOUSING ACT, 1936. SECTION 11

*Houses incapable of repair at reasonable expense:*

There were no statutory notices served under this section during the year.

### DEMOLITION ORDERS

Demolition Orders were served in respect of 94, 96, 98 and 100, London Road consequent upon the rehousing of the families by the Council. The occupants of 32, Castle Street were rehoused by the Council during the year, the house being subject to a demolition order.

### DEMOLITION ORDERS REVOKED

The Demolition Order served in connection with 54, Middle Row was revoked by the Council, the house having been rendered fit by the owner.

### UNDERTAKINGS CANCELLED

Undertakings were cancelled in respect of 6 and 10, Chapel Row, the houses having been brought up to the required standard of fitness by the owner.

### CLOSING ORDERS REVOKED

Closing Orders were revoked in respect of 23 and 25, Newtown Road when the houses had been rendered fit by the owner.

The tabulated statement required by the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, as extended, is given below :

#### 1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... .. 972

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... .. 1413

(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... ..	142
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	367
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	—
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	92
2.	<i>Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices</i>	
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	64
3.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year</i>	
A.—	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a)	By Owners ... ..	5
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—
B.—	Proceedings under Public Health Acts	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	—
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a)	By Owners ... ..	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—
C.—	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	4
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	—
(3)	Number of written undertakings accepted ...	—

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..  | — |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... .. | — |

E.—Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of houses in confirmed clearance areas demolished ... .. | — |
|---|---|

F.—Proceedings under Housing Act, 1949

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (1) Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1) ...   | — |
| (2) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3 (2) ... | — |

G.—Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (1) Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1)                               | — |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses closed in pursuance of Closing Orders ... .. | 3 |

4. *Overcrowding—Part IV, Housing Act, 1936*

No action was taken under this Part during the year.